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Letter dated 17 October 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to the presidential statement dated May 2001 (S/PRST/2001/13) in which the Security Council of the United Nations extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I have reason to believe that the report of the Panel of Experts in question should be out soon. In the meantime, it has come to the attention of the Government of Zimbabwe that the international conspiracy and alignment of forces against Zimbabwe continues unabated, as exemplified by the grotesque fabrication of false evidence being presented to the Panel by our detractors through the Western media.

In my intervention to the Security Council on the preliminary report on the addendum to the report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I had reason to refer to what I called the absurdity of the report's contents and the pre-set wishes "on which the Panel based its methodological framework". I castigated its sources of information and said it was *full of hearsay*, and constant reference to unverifiable sources, "the so-called credible sources (journalistic parlance), which are not identified". The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zimbabwe, Dr. I. S. G. Mudenge, in his address to the Security Council on the addendum to the April report on 14 December 2001, equally castigated the report. He referred especially to paragraph 76 of the report which, in his words, "Imports, lock stock and barrel, the caricatures and grotesque and false misrepresentations of the situation in my country as peddled daily on the Internet and the media by those dedicated to demonize, vilify and ostracize my country". Dr. Mudenge appropriately pointed out that this abuse of trust as exemplified in the report of the Panel was "unworthy of a United Nations document".

Mr. President, the grotesque and malicious interference by enemies of my country in what should be a professional investigation by the Panel continues to this day.

In Harare, and indeed given today's information highway, *the media* is awash with the contents of a fraudulent document purported to be a letter from Zimbabwe's Minister of Defence to President R. G. Mugabe seeking the latter's intervention on behalf of Zimbabwean companies to remove obstacles to further progress in the implementation of economic cooperation between the Democratic Republic of the

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Congo and Zimbabwe. The document is supposed to be a leak from sources to Mr. Walker, diplomatic corespondent of The Sunday Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E98 1ST. The document was, in typical British propaganda style, leaked to a member of the Panel, Mr. Taylor.

You may of course want to think that in the interest of investigative journalism the leak is normal. But who is this Hannah Taylor? Surely in the interest of transparency and objectivity any important information would have been referred to the Chairman of the Panel. More importantly for the integrity of the United Nations, the Chairman of the Panel should have made attempts to verify the report with the Zimbabwe Government or this Mission.

Mr. President, let me state categorically that the four-page document in the possession of Mr. Walker is fraudulent. Mr. Walker strangely seeks Mr. Taylor's opinion on the fraudulent document, implying therefore that Mr. Taylor might be part of this shenanigan. If this assumption is correct, then God bless the Security Council. We know that so-called diplomatic correspondents of British major papers are agents of MI6. If United Nations panellists have become covert agents of major powers, then the Security Council is completely compromised. The reference by Mr. Walker to "my sources in Zim" and the fact that a fraudulent document is being looked at "by American diplomats" is a clear affirmation of the collaborative efforts of some permanent members of the Council with what should be an independent panel of experts. My Government hopes that none of the fabricated material will find its way into the Panel's report. If the British media's so-called "secret" document is in any way used or referred to by the Panel, the Security Council will have become party to the conspiracy against my country by the West.

Mr. President, you no doubt realize the quintessential nature of the United Nations and the Security Council as organs for the salvation of humanity. My Government demands that the present note be acknowledged by the Council and that it become an official document of the United Nations. By the same token, this Mission will distribute it to all permanent missions for the record.

(*Signed*) T. J. B. **Jokonya**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative